

HOW TO BEFRIEND ANIMALS THAT HATE YOU

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

And you thought befriending people was difficult.

IDENTIFY YOUR PROBLEM

When the animals won't stop seething at the sight of you, it's time you consider some major lifestyle changes. You can't go around drinking milk out of the cartoon in your best friend's house and expect his cat to just be okay with it. And have you considered that your pet *moina pakhi* won't say your name because he's tired of playing Talking Tom in front of all your friends? Maybe he's sick of hearing, "Amar naam bolo toh, Pinky", because which sane person would name his very green self "Pinky", and what problem have you resolved for Pinky to remember your name. Don't blame the humidity, or a bad lunch for the animal being peeved, it's really just you.

DO NOT DISRESPECT

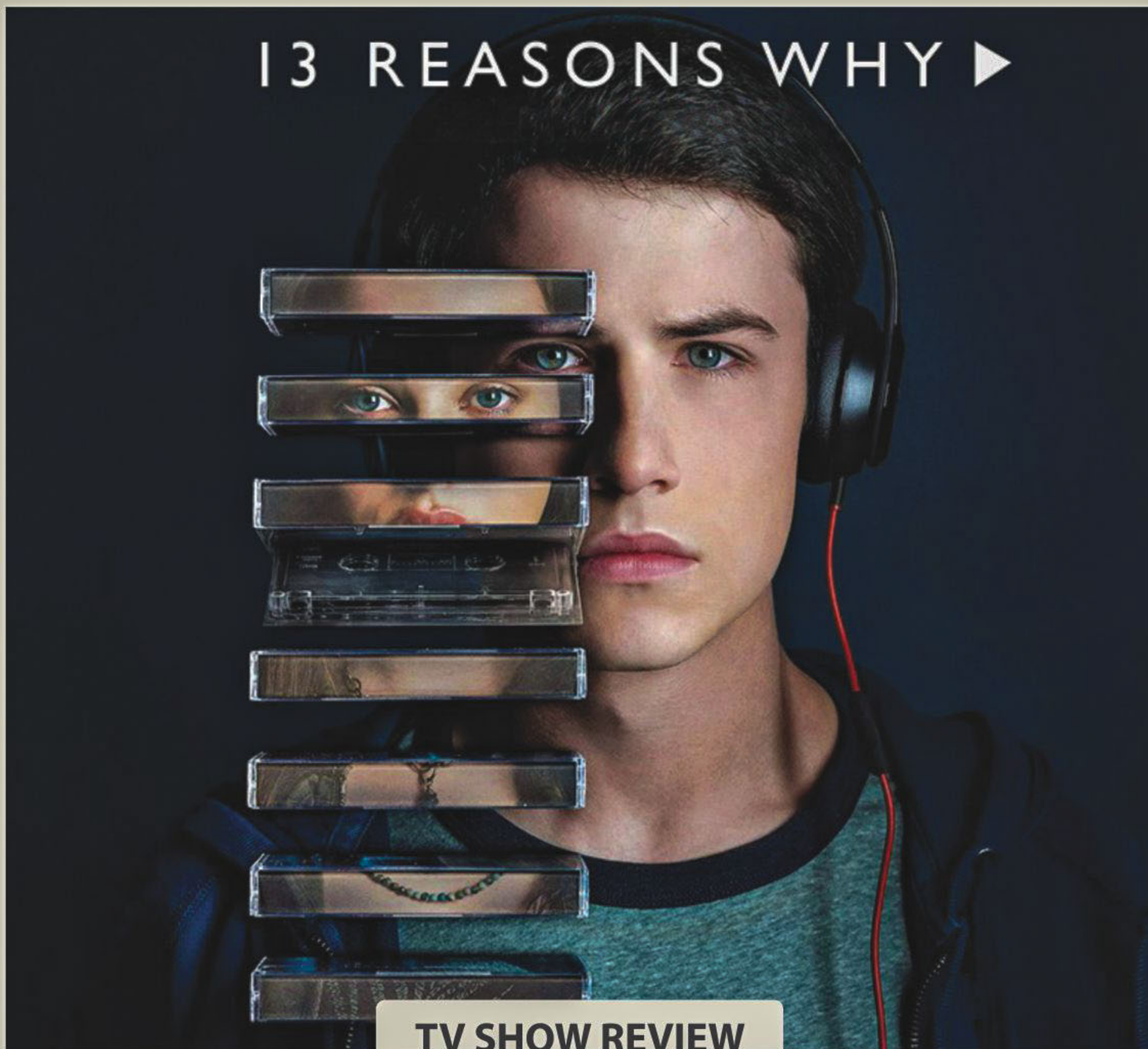
What were you thinking comparing your idiot best friend to puppies' right in front of the mother dog? He ain't gonna let that go. If you go around eating extra spicy chicken wings in front of the very alive chicken, you're just asking for it. The chicken knows exactly what happened to the egg it laid last night, so don't get too cocky, that's his job. And get rid of that Mohawk. Other than the fact that it's so 2010, you're offending all the other chicken who's going berserk at the sight of you being a mere wannabe. Respect is a two way street, and the chicken surely isn't going to cross the road for your respect, you need to give it to him upfront.

EXTEND A FRIENDLY HAND

Which is synonymous to extend food. Much like human bonds, food can mark the foundation of any new beginnings with animals. When courting a girl, you must court her cat as well. Can you really make it official unless the cat gives you its blessing? So the chocolate you get the girl may be a cheap one from mama's tong. However, for the Billi the cat, you must take very high quality *tatka rui-katla* and hope to God he understands the current *hilsha fish* situation. And what is that "high fibre" Australian bird nourishment you're feeding your *khati Bengali tota pakhi*? He aint about that white bird food, get him some fruit instead.

Whether you're trying to get the approval of you girlfriend's cat Tiger, battling to survive from the dog guarding the road to school every day, or merely wanting your pet bird to reciprocate your feelings, you're in for one hell of a ride. Pucker up.

Samin Sabah Islam is on a quest to find the perfect diet while simultaneously drooling over pizza. Throw her some tips at sabahsamin11@gmail.com



TV SHOW REVIEW

DRAMA AND STRONG MESSAGES SPREAD ACROSS 13 REASONS

SELAMAT DATANG

Liberty High School is shaken by Hannah Baker's suicide. Clay Jensen is already having a hard time coming to terms with it when he receives 13 neatly stacked cassette tapes in a shoe box, on his doorstep. As he begins to listen to the first one, it becomes evident that the tapes are from Hannah - a suicide note of sorts, explaining in details the 13 main reasons she took her own life.

It's difficult for Clay to just listen and the series writers make sure it's almost just as difficult for viewers to watch. Without picking out spoilers, the journey of someone being pushed to feel worthless, alone and helpless isn't meant to be a comfortable one. It's supposed to be difficult, terrible and unfair and all of that is portrayed in a very honest light in this Netflix series.

It's interesting to hear "Hannah's truth" from the tapes, and also get a glimpse of how other characters claim things had happened. This gives rise to one of many realisations—what we may be doing as a joke can have entirely different and unintended effects on others, and there is always more than one side to each story.

Unlike the book, the show doesn't mainly focus on the tapes only, but also on the present - in the lives of the students who could "lose everything," with the school authority now that their role in helping Hannah is brought under scrutiny, and in the parents' lives - whether it's the Bakers, broken and blaming themselves, or Clay's parents, trying to figure out what is going on with their son.

You'll be tempted to closely watch every second of the 50-60 minute long episodes because there is

so much going on. It's fast-paced and I assure you there are no filler episodes. The soundtrack is powerful, especially the opening music with its eerie mysterious tone.

Some have criticised the series for blowing things out of proportion, but when a person is struggling, the little things do matter. Each episode may not make sense on its own, but as you progress through the show, things get darker and it makes more sense as a whole. People (other characters and actual viewers) have accused Hannah of being overly dramatic. Yes, she was a dramatic person, but everyone has flaws. The series does a decent job of putting forth well formed characters - they're not perfect, and most of them know this, and we watch them change throughout the course of 13 episodes.

13 Reasons Why doesn't just tell Hannah's story, it gives us multiple raw looks into the lives of others - people hurting because they did things or didn't do things. It touches on friendship, trust, relationship with parents, sexual assault, accountability and more. It does all this and still manages to give a potent and central message - that people around us may be hurting, trying to reach out, but we miss the signs and push them away further. With a little effort in the right direction, we could help save a life. I just wish the show had done a bit more to include awareness about mental health issues and active suicide prevention.

Selamat Datang fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at [fb.com/salma.ali209](https://www.facebook.com/salma.ali209)